

NASWA and Employers Partner to Help Veterans Find Employment

Partnership will Provide U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes Program More Effective Way to Utilize Job Listings through the National Labor Exchange

Washington, D.C. – April 2, 2014 – In an effort to help veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses obtain meaningful civilian careers and to raise awareness around the important issue of veterans' employment, the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA), DirectEmployers Association (DirectEmployers), and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's (USCCF), Hiring our Heroes program (HOH), signed an agreement today committing themselves to partner with each other and leverage the strengths and expertise of all three organizations.

"Through this innovative partnership, we will be able to better guide our military men and women toward the more than one million available jobs in the National Labor Exchange," said Eric Eversole, executive director of Hiring Our Heroes and vice president at the U.S. Chamber. "This is public and private sector collaboration at its best and will help veterans and service members make more informed decisions about career opportunities, and to do so earlier in the transition process."

The partnership will initially seek to use the existing public-private partnership between NASWA and DirectEmployers, known as the National Labor Exchange (NLX). In 2013, the NLX included close to 9 million individual jobs from approximately 340,000 employers of all sizes. With this agreement, Hiring Our Heroes will be able to better leverage the open data of more than one million job listings currently available in the NLX. Veterans, transitioning service members, and military spouses will benefit from Hiring Our Heroes' ability to more effectively design news search and job application functions in its online job search tool, Fast Track.

"As a veteran myself, I understand the challenges that transitioning military personnel face when searching for civilian employment. DirectEmployers Association is honored to support the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring our Heroes Fast Track initiative by providing our nation's heroes with a direct connection to military friendly employers" said Bill Warren, Executive Director, DirectEmployers Association.

Employers using the Hiring Our Heroes Fast Track site will be able to list jobs by directly posting in state job banks which link into the NLX, or have their jobs electronically acquired by the NLX from their corporate career website at no cost. The redesigned Fast Track site is scheduled to launch the week of March 31, 2014.

Mark Henry, NASWA, President, stated "We are excited about this partnership as it brings together and expands significant resources of three major organizations, working in collaboration, to assist our nation's veterans return to work."

The three organizations will also work in collaboration to bring together employers and state workforce agencies to leverage other public and private resources to help veterans obtain employment.